

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 10/084,762
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This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated April 6, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

REJECTIONS**35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 28-29 and 31**

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 28-29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,775,000 issued Jul. 7, 1998 to Maekawa *et al.*, (hereinafter referred to as "Maekawa"). In response, the Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 30 in independent form. Claims 1-2 and 28-29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 37 has been added and recites the limitations of cancelled claim 2. Claims 5-8 and 1 have been amended to correct dependency.

Claims 3 and 30, as rewritten, have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Thus, claims 3-12, 30-31 and 37 are patentable over Maekawa. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 32-36

Claims 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maekawa. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Maekawa does not teach or suggest elevating a cooling plate towards a support to actuate an alignment mechanism. In contrast, Maekawa teaches moving a cup 34 upward to actuate swing fingers 16, thereby clamping the substrate after centering. Maekawa does not teach a cooling plate. Therefore, Maekawa does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 32 and 36.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claim 32 and 36, and claims 33-35 depending therefrom, are patentable over Maekawa. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

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Page 11 of 11**ALLOWED CLAIMS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his comments regarding the allowability of claims 13-27. The Applicants additionally thank the Examiner for his comments regarding the allowability of claims 3-4, 10 and 30 if re-written in independent form. In response, the Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 30 as suggested.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on May 14, 2004 and is addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Facsimile No: (703) 872-9306.

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5-14-04
Date of signature

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